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**BOROUGH OF FARNWORTH**

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**Annual Report**

— OF THE —

**Medical Officer of Health**

Including the Report of the  
**SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR**

---

**1952**



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**1952**

## MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE

\*Chairman : ALDERMAN J. A. DEAN.

\*Vice-Chairman : COUNCILLOR J. HIGGINS.

### Members :

The Mayor (Councillor R. Matthews, J.P.)

Alderman J. Brooks.

„ A. Jones, O.B.E., J.P.

\* „ W. Welsby.

Councillor H. Armitage.

„ J. W. Bradley.

\* „ J. W. Geere, C.C.

\* „ W. Nicholls.

\* „ J. Seddon, J.P.

„ R. J. Whalley.

„ G. H. Wilson.

\* *Members of Sub-Committee.*

## STAFF OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health :

R. SYDNEY DAVIDSON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector :

A. H. S. LEWIS, Cert. R.S.I. & S.I.E. JT. BOARD, R.S.I.,

Food Inspection.

Sanitary Inspectors :

E. M. PETCH, Cert. R.S.I. & S.I.E. JT. BOARD, R.S.I.,

Food Inspection.

(Resigned 13th March, 1952).

J. F. PICKLES, Cert. R.S.I. & S.I.E. JT. BOARD, R.S.I.

Food Inspection.

(Appointed 1st February, 1952).

D. G. RUSSELL, Cert. R.S.I. & S.I.E. JT. BOARD.

(Appointed 29th September, 1952).

Clerks :

Miss M. M. Helme.

Mrs. S. Taylor.

## TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Mr. MAYOR AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present the Annual Report on the health of the Borough, together with the Senior Sanitary Inspector's report, for the year 1952.

### Statistics of the Area.

The Infant Mortality Rate of 21 is the lowest on record for the Borough. In the year 1911 it was 224. The rate for England and Wales in 1952 is 27.6. The Death Rate for the Borough is 12.2 against 14.7 for the previous year. Of the 339 deaths, 59 were due to cancer in some form or other and 118 were due to heart disease.

### Housing.

There is still a long waiting list for houses and there are still many cases of overcrowding. The cost of housing repairs, the shortage of materials from time to time and the scarcity of building labour for repair work are serious obstacles to the maintenance in reasonable condition of the many old houses in the Borough.

### Food Inspection.

The Byelaws made under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and which came into force on the 2nd May, 1951, are for the securing of better sanitary and cleaner conditions in the handling, wrapping or delivery of food and the sale of food in the open air.

It is somewhat ludicrous that in all our efforts to prevent food poisoning there is no legislation preventing a shopkeeper handing over the counter an unwrapped loaf of bread.

### Infectious Diseases.

There has been a most marked decline since pre-war years in the incidence of infectious disease.

Measles and Whooping Cough which have been notifiable for the last five years were not notifiable in the pre-war years, so that any comparison between infectious diseases now and then must exclude these diseases.

The average number of cases of infectious diseases notified per year from 1934 to 1938 was 304 with 31 deaths. During the years 1948 to 1952 the average number was 181 with 13 deaths.

This improvement is due to diphtheria immunisation which appears to have removed the most serious menace to child life and to better feeding where essential vitamins are used to build up resistance not only to infectious diseases but to ill health generally.

I have, as in previous years, been accorded the encouragement and help of the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee and the loyal co-operation of the staff of the Health Department.

I am,

Your obedient servant.

R. SYDNEY DAVIDSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

## STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area = 1,504 statute acres.

*decimals*

Population ...	28,050 ...	...	...	Estimated mid-1952. —
	28,614 ...	...	...	Census 1951.

Number of inhabited houses, 1931	...	...	7,104
Number of inhabited houses, 1952	...	...	8,933
Rateable Value (1st April, 1952)	...	...	£151,518
Sum represented by 1d. rate	...	...	£605

## Vital Statistics for the year 1952.

## BIRTHS.

				Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	208	209	417
Illegitimate	...	...	...	4	10	14
Total Births	...	...	...	212	219	431

## STILL BIRTHS

Legitimate	...	...	...	7	10	17
Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	2	2
Total	...	...	...	7	12	19

	Farnworth	England & Wales
Birth Rate per 1,000 population	15.4	15.3
Still Births per 1,000 total births	42	22.6
Still Births per 1,000 population	0.67	0.35

	Males	Females	Total
Deaths of infants under 1 year :—			
Legitimate	...	...	...
Illegitimate	...	...	...
Total	...	...	...

INFANT MORTALITY RATE :	Farnworth	England & Wales
(all infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 live births)	...	...
Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age	...	...
Maternal mortality :		
Deaths from pregnancy, childbirth and abortion	...	...

DEATH RATE per 1,000 population	Farnworth	England & Wales
	12.2	11.3

*? unless new in no. of years*

## Causes of Death in all ages in 1952.

	Males	Females
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ... ..	3	1
Non-pulmonary tuberculosis ... ..	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach ... ..	4	5
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ... ..	10	2
Malignant neoplasm, breast ... ..	—	3
Malignant neoplasm, uterus ... ..	—	3
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	13	19
Diabetes ... ..	1	—
Vascular lesions of nervous system ... ..	18	24
Coronary disease, angina ... ..	23	21
Hypertension with heart disease ... ..	6	4
Other heart disease ... ..	30	34
Other circulatory disease ... ..	5	10
Influenza ... ..	2	—
Pneumonia ... ..	5	5
Bronchitis ... ..	16	8
Other diseases of respiratory system ... ..	2	—
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ... ..	—	2
Enteritis ... ..	1	—
Nephritis and nephrosis ... ..	1	2
Hyperplasia of prostate ... ..	3	—
Congenital malformations ... ..	2	3
Accidental ... ..	12	5
Suicidal ... ..	1	—
Other ... ..	13	17
	171	168
Total ... ..	...	339

### PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

#### DIPHTHERIA.

There were no cases of diphtheria in the resident population of Farnworth during 1952.

#### DIPHTHERIA ANTI-TOXIN.

Anti-toxin is available in 10,000 units free to general practitioners for patients resident in the Borough. During the year 20,000 units were issued.

#### SCARLET FEVER.

Out of 95 cases of scarlet fever notified during the year, 31 cases were treated in hospital. There were no deaths due to this disease.

#### PNEUMONIA.

There were 41 cases notified and there were 10 deaths.



## PUERPERAL PYREXIA.

Nine cases of puerperal pyrexia were notified in Farnworth during the year, 6 of which belonged to outside districts.

## OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

No case of ophthalmia neonatorum was notified in Farnworth during 1952.

## FOOD POISONING.

There were no cases of food poisoning notified in Farnworth during 1952.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS)  
NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1952.

Diseases	Age periods—years										Total
	0—	1—	3—	5—	10—	15—	25—	45—	65 & over		
Scarlet fever ... ..	—	5	12	58	17	2	1	—	—	95	
Typhoid fever ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	5	6	
Measles (excluding ru- bella) ... ..	7	90	118	130	—	—	—	—	—	345	
Whooping cough ... ..	1	9	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	13	
Acute pneumonia (pri- mary and influenzal)... ..	6	2	4	4	1	—	7	11	6	41	
Puerperal pyrexia ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	2	7	—	—	9	
Meningococcal infection	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	2	
Acute poliomyelitis (paralytic) ... ..	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	
Dysentery ... ..	8	26	4	2	2	1	5	—	—	48	
Erysipelas ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	3	
Totals ... ..	22	133	141	195	21	7	20	13	12	564	

## TUBERCULOSIS.

Age periods	New cases notified during the year.			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
Under 15 years	—	—	—	—
15 — ... ..	3	2	—	—
20 — ... ..	1	—	—	—
25 — ... ..	—	—	—	2
35 — ... ..	3	—	—	—
45 — ... ..	1	1	—	—
55 — ... ..	1	—	—	—
65 — ... ..	1	—	—	—
75 and over ...	1	—	—	—
Totals ... ..	11	3	—	2

No. of cases of Tuberculosis on the register at the end of 1952.

	Males	Females
Pulmonary ... ..	46	60
Non-pulmonary ... ..	21	25

The treatment of tuberculosis is undertaken by the County Council.

DISINFECTIONS.

13 Wards at Bolton District General Hospital, at the request of the hospital authorities, and 24 houses were disinfected following cases of infectious disease.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY.

The town is supplied with water by Bolton Corporation. The water is derived from upland gathering grounds and is filtered and treated before going into supply. It is soft in nature and satisfactory in quality and quantity. All dwellings in the Borough are supplied directly with water.

The supply was from Heaton Sand Filters, Ferns Park Pressure Filters and the Sweetloves Open Sand Filters, and 35 samples of both raw and filtered water were subjected to full chemical analysis and 144 samples of raw and 145 samples of filtered water to bacteriological examination by the Bolton Borough Analyst. The results showed that general filtration and treatment of the raw water were necessary, and that the filtered and treated water was of excellent quality, B. Coli being absent in almost all cases in 100 mls. All water is treated before passing into supply.

From tests made weekly the water was shown to have no plumbo-solvent action.

No action was required to be taken in respect of any form of contamination.

An additional 1,200 yards of water main, varying in diameter from 4 ins. to 12 ins., were laid in Farnworth during the year.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

This is almost entirely on the combined system. There is one main sewage disposal plant at Hall Lane Sewage Works and a subsidiary plant at Lark Hill.

## CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Accommodation at the end of 1952 :—

No. of privy middens	...	...	...	...	3
No. of closets attached to these middens...	...	...	...	...	4
No. of pail closets	...	...	...	...	8
No. of dry ashpits (excluding middens)	...	...	...	...	Nil
No. of movable ashbins	...	...	...	...	9,976
No. of trough closets	...	...	...	...	Nil
No. of waste water closets	...	...	...	...	146
No. of fresh water closets	...	...	...	...	9,956
No. of houses on water carriage system	...	...	...	...	8,930
No. of waste water closets converted to fresh water closets during the year...	...	...	...	...	26

The principal need is for the conversion of the waste water closets to fresh water closets. The waste water closet is an insanitary appliance, difficult if not impossible to clean, frequently out of order, producing a very foul and concentrated sewage and a menace to the safety of young children. Under the provision of the Public Health Act, 1936, these appliances are not approved as sanitary conveniences and the Local Authority is empowered to contribute a maximum of 50% towards the cost of conversion.

This is done in Farnworth and an average amount of £10 per conversion is paid towards the cost.

## COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF HOUSE REFUSE.

This service is under the control of the Borough Surveyor. There is a weekly collection of house refuse and at the same time a collection of salvage carried out by three covered motor vehicles.

The refuse was disposed of by tipping in a disused quarry and reclaiming the site.

## VERMIN INFESTATION.

The incidence of infestation of houses with *cimex lectularius* (bed bugs) was small. It was not necessary to have any houses disinfested with hydrogen cyanide. Ten council houses and thirty privately owned houses were disinfested with D.D.T. in solution. The furniture and effects of three families removing to council houses were disinfested with hydrogen cyanide gas.

## SANITARY INSPECTIONS DURING 1952 (INCLUDING HOUSING).

No. of premises visited	...	...	...	...	...	2,643
-------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-------

No. of visits :—						
------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

Houses—Public Health Act	...	...	...	...	833
Houses—Housing Act	...	...	...	...	361
Houses—Re-inspections	...	...	...	...	1,751
Disinfections	...	...	...	...	30
Disinfestations	...	...	...	...	55
Infectious diseases	...	...	...	...	152
Factories	...	...	...	...	60
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	28
Milk distributors	...	...	...	...	36
Baths	...	...	...	...	23
Offices	...	...	...	...	3
Food premises	...	...	...	...	486
Drainage work	...	...	...	...	346
Ice cream dealers	...	...	...	...	22
Rodent control	...	...	...	...	533
Mortuary	...	...	...	...	10
Smoke observations	...	...	...	...	24
Market	...	...	...	...	13
Butchers' shops	...	...	...	...	51
Refuse disposal	...	...	...	...	39
Farms	...	...	...	...	20
Outworkers	...	...	...	...	2
Fried fish shops	...	...	...	...	5
Market	...	...	...	...	3
Food hawkers	...	...	...	...	2
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	21
Piggeries	...	...	...	...	2
Licensed premises	...	...	...	...	10
Water samples	...	...	...	...	4
Schools	...	...	...	...	6
Shops Act	...	...	...	...	35
Pet shops	...	...	...	...	3
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	91

Defects or nuisances :—						
-------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

Number discovered	...	...	...	...	...	1,287
Number abated	...	...	...	...	...	1,177

Number of notices served :—						
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Informal	...	...	...	...	...	512
Statutory	...	...	...	...	...	174

Legal proceedings were taken in one case of non-compliance with Statutory Notice. An abatement order was obtained.

## SHOPS AND OFFICES

		Defects and Inspections Contraven- tions	Remedied
(a) Shops Act, 1934, relating to ventilation and temperature of shops and to sanitary conveniences ...	35	—	—
(b) Public Health Act, 1936, relating to conditions in offices, i.e., ventilation, sanitary conveniences, etc.	—	—	—

## SMOKE ABATEMENT.

24 observations were taken during the year.

No action was necessary as a result of these observations.

## FACTORIES ACT, 1937

## 1. INSPECTIONS :—

Premises	No. of inspections	No. of written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
Factories without mechanical power ... ..	13	—	—
Factories with mechanical power ... ..	88	8	—
Other premises... ..	3	—	—
Total ... ..	104	8	—

## 2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND :—

	Found	Remedied	Prosecutions
Want of cleanliness ... ..	2	2	—
Overcrowding ... ..	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature ... ..	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation ... ..	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors ... ..	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences :—			
(a) Insufficient ... ..	2	2	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective... ..	12	9	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ... ..	—	—	—
Total ... ..	16	13	—

## PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The Act requires the Local Authority to take such steps as may be necessary to ensure that, as far as is practicable, the district is kept free from rats and mice and to that end to carry out such inspections as may be necessary, to destroy rats and mice on land of which the authority is the occupier and to enforce the duties of owners and occupiers under the Act.



Two rodent operatives are employed who maintain a continuous survey of the district, investigate all notifications by occupiers, carry out destruction measures. Twice each year they examine and treat the public sewers for rat infestation with the help of casual labour. Here it is well to point out that the notification of rodent infestation on premises is obligatory and is of great assistance to the Health Department.

Every such complaint is investigated and appropriate measures taken; whenever possible the source of infestation is found and dealt with. Very frequently in the case of rat infestation, the source of infestation is found to be defects in the drainage system of the premises. The methods of treatment used are poisoning, trapping and gassing. During the year the new poison, "Warfarin," was introduced and has given very satisfactory results where circumstances permit its use.

An analysis of the numbers of surface infestations found and treated follows, in which it will be seen that most of the infestations found and treated occurred in dwelling houses. It may be that there is some reluctance on the part of occupiers of business premises to notify slight infestations because of the charge for treatment that has to be made. Dwelling houses are treated free of charge. Treatment of business premises is charged on a basis of men's time and materials used, the preliminary survey being carried out free of charge. It is, of course, open to the occupiers of business premises to carry out their own treatment privately.

Type of Property

	Local Autho- ity	Dwelling Houses	Agri- cultural	Other (including business and Industrial)	Total
No. of properties in Local Authority's District ...	19	8938	10	922	9889
No. of properties inspected by the Local Authority...	19	361	10	55	445
No. of properties found to be infested by rats ...	Major — Minor 10	— 60	— —	— 11	— 81
No. of properties found to be seriously infested by mice ... ..	—	11	—	10	21
No. of infested properties treated by the local Authority ... ..	10	71	—	21	102
Total ... ..	58	9441	20	1019	10538

Details of sewer treatments follow. The method of treating the sewers is to place unpoisoned bait in measured quantities on the benching of the manholes on two successive days, and where such bait is taken by rats, on the third day, poisoned bait is laid. All the manholes possible are treated once during the year and those manholes showing infestation are treated again six months later.

	May	November
Total number of manholes ...	1027	1084
Dates of treatment ...	May to June	November to December
Bait and poison ...	Bread mash and arsenic	Sausage rusk and zinc phosphide
Number of manholes baited ...	184	1022
Number of manholes showing prebait take ...	38	139
Number of manholes showing complete prebait take on one or both days ...	35	63

### PUBLIC BATHS

The Public Baths are owned by the Corporation and are under the control of the Health Committee.

The baths consist of one swimming bath 75 ft. long and 30 ft. wide, 61 cubicles, 2 large dressing rooms and 2 store rooms, 4 foot baths, 2 females' and 3 males' slipper baths. The water is kept in a clean and safe condition by means of a modern filtration plant consisting of filter tank, pump, motor, superheater, air compressor and aeration chamber, syphon, glass feed and chemical tanks. After filtration the water is chlorinated.

### MORTUARY

The Public Mortuary, situated in Gas Street, is the responsibility of the Health Committee, but its use is mainly determined by the County Police.

During the year it was used on 19 occasions for the reception of bodies and 19 post-mortem examinations were carried out.

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

#### MILK SUPPLY.

There are three accredited dairy farms in the district and six other farms. The milk supplied from these farms for consumption without heat treatment was sampled on 25 occasions, primarily for the presence of bovine tuberculosis but also for keeping quality.

Under the provisions of the Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949, 136 persons were granted dealers' licences to sell sterilised milk and 8 persons to sell pasteurised milk. 8 dealers' licences for the sale of tuberculin tested milk were also granted.

During 1952, 43 persons were registered as milk distributors under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949. Two dairies are registered in the district.

25 samples of milk were examined during the year. In one case, tubercle bacillus was found to be present in the milk. Steps were taken for the herd affected to be examined and the animal responsible was found and slaughtered.

#### ICE CREAM.

7 premises are registered as being suitable for the manufacture of ice cream but only 4 were so used during the year.

6 premises were registered during the year for the sale of ice cream, making a total of 87 registered in Farnworth.

22 inspections of ice cream dealers' and manufacturers' premises were made during the year. 12 samples of ice cream were taken for bacteriological examination. Of these 7 were Grade 1, 2 were Grade 2, and 1 was Grade 3 and 2 were Grade 4. Steps were taken to improve the grading of the unsatisfactory producers.

#### PREPARATION, SALE AND STORAGE OF FOOD

713 inspections of premises where food is prepared or sold were made during the year. Proprietors responded readily to informal requests by inspectors to remedy minor infringements of the Food & Drugs Act, and the byelaws relating to the handling and wrapping of food. The provision of hot water supplies in all food premises and the protection of food from contamination continues to receive special attention.

The following food was condemned and surrendered.

50 lbs. 4 ozs. Luncheon Meat.	84 lbs. 8 ozs. Almonds.
506 lbs. 12 ozs. Ham.	9 Stn. 13 lbs. Halibut.
42 lbs. Sausage.	230 lbs. Beef.
225 lbs. 8 ozs. Pork.	61 lbs. Mutton.
19 (whole) Wood Pigeon.	6 lbs. Stewed Steak.
6 lbs. Jellied Veal.	77 lbs. 8 ozs. Bacon.
12 lbs. Ox-tongue.	239 lbs. Biscuits.
34 lbs. Ground Rice.	56 lbs. Butter.
15 lbs. Pig's Head.	8 cwts. 59 lbs. Chocolate and
53 lbs. Lamb.	Confectionery.
	15 gallons Blood.

#### TINNED GOODS

6 tins Evaporated Milk.	2 tins Salmon.
12 tins Oranges	37 tins Tomatoes
37 tins Apple Puree.	40 tins Peas.
2 tins Sardines.	6 tins Orange Marmalade.
33 tins Spaghetti.	3 tins Tomato ketchup.
37 portions Cheese Spread.	1 box Gruyere Cheese.
9 packets Cheese Spread	7 tins Strawberries.
2 tins Peeled Shrimps.	2 tins Apricots.
4 tins Chicken.	121 tins Apples.



6 tins Sliced Peaches.  
 76 tins Prunes.  
 30 tins Pineapple Juice.  
 49 jars Salad Cream.  
 4 jars Pickled Onion.  
 1 jar Piccalilli.  
 68 tins Greengages.  
 22 jars Fruit Sauce.  
 160 tins Soup.  
 1 tin Nestles Milk.  
 1 tin Apricot Jam.  
 1 tin Mussels.  
 117 tins Cherries.  
 40 tins Blackcurrant.  
 16 tins Pilchards.  
 2 tins Rock Lobster.  
 1 tin Raspberries  
 6 tins Grapefruit.  
 1 tin Blackberries.  
 9 tins Oranges.  
 5 tins Bilberries.

8 tins Orange Juice.  
 64 boxes Dates.  
 4 tins Pears.  
 1 jar Mixed Pickle.  
 7 jars Red Cabbage.  
 75 tins Plums.  
 3 tins Butter Beans.  
 14 tins Grapejuice.  
 1 tin Cream.  
 1 tin Lamb's Tongue.  
 33 tins Damsons.  
 8 tins Grapes.  
 14 tins Beans.  
 1 tin Fisheakes.  
 1 tin Sild.  
 4 tins Fruit Salad.  
 4 tins Beans.  
 6 tins Macaroni.  
 7 tins Pineapple.  
 1 tin Condensed Milk.

#### ADULTERATION OF FOOD.

The County Council is the Food and Drugs Authority under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and samples are taken by the County Sanitary Officer in collaboration with the local Sanitary Officer.

Particulars of samples taken during the year :—

Milk	...	...	...	...	108
Other articles	...	...	...	...	33

58700

The 38 other articles comprised :—

2 Lemon Cheese.	1 Jelly Crystals.
2 Curry Powder.	1 Blanc Mange Powder.
1 Mixed Spice Ground	4 Jam
2 Butter.	3 Liquid Paraffin.
1 Processed Peas.	1 Macaroni.
1 Beans in Tomato Sauce.	2 Barley.
1 Beef Sausage.	1 Semolina.
1 Liquid Fruit Pectin.	1 Ice Lollies.
2 Oatmeal.	2 Cocoa.
2 Sponge Cake and Sponge	2 Fruit Canned.
Pudding Mixture,	1 Fruit Canned (Orange
Sweetened.	Segments in Syrup)
2 Olive Oil	1 Fruit Canned (Prunes in
	Syrup).

All the samples were reported by the County Analyst to be genuine with the exception of the following :—

SAMPLE	RESULT OF ANALYSIS	ACTION TAKEN
1 informal milk.	Deficient 20% fat.	Formal sample obtained.
1 formal milk.	The freezing point indicated the presence of 0.8% extraneous water.	} Same vendor. Vendor cautioned. and a further sample obtained.
1 formal milk.	Deficient 27.6% fat.	
1 formal milk.	Deficient 10% fat, 19.5% solids-not-fat and the freezing point indicated the presence of 15.5% of extraneous water.	} Same vendor. Prosecution. Vendor fined £3 with £5 9s. 0d. costs.
1 formal milk.	Deficient 10% fat, 19.5% solids-not-fat and the freezing point indicated the presence of 15.0% of extraneous water.	
1 informal milk.	Deficient 20% fat.	Formal sample obtained.
1 informal milk.	The freezing point indicated the presence of 1.6% extraneous water.	} Same vendor. Vendor cautioned and further samples obtained.
1 informal milk.	The freezing point indicated the presence of 1.5% extraneous water.	
1 informal milk.	The freezing point indicated the presence of 2.8% extraneous water.	
1 olive oil.	Acid value 2.1. B.P. limit 2.0.	Age of stock queried.
1 fruit canned (prunes in syrup)	Contained 2.2 grains per pound tin.	Further samples obtained from same stock.
1 fruit canned (orange segments in syrup)	Contained 2.2 grains per pound tin.	Further sample obtained from the same stock.

## HOUSING

No. of new houses erected during the year :—

(1) By the local authority	...	...	...	...	75
(2) By other local authorities	...	...	...	...	2
(3) By other bodies or persons...	...	...	...	...	3

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	370
(b) Number of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose	...	2,945
(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	...	39
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	361
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	2
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	368

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	...	191
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3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR :—

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring repairs	37

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which, after service of formal notices, were rendered fit :—

(a) By owners...	19
(b) By local authority in default of owners ...	Nil

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... 41

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—

(a) By owners...	17
(b) By local authority in default of owners ...	2

(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... 2

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... —

(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... —

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... 2

#### 4. HOUSING ACT, 1936—PART IV—OVERCROWDING :—

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year ... 42  
 (ii) Number of families dwelling therein... 67  
 (iii) Number of persons dwelling therein... 282

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... 12

(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year... 11  
 (ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases ... 57

## Housing Conditions

### 1. GENERAL OBSERVATIONS AS TO HOUSING CONDITIONS :—

Of 8938 houses in the town, 2597 are Corporation houses aged from 30 years to newly built, and are in good condition ; of the remainder, approximately 3000 houses are old (50 years or more) lacking in modern amenities, have solid walls and dampness is a prevalent defect in them. Most of them are 4 room cottage type, easily overcrowded. 1 2 2 7

### 2. SUFFICIENCY OF SUPPLY OF HOUSES.

At the end of 1952, 947 applications for Corporation houses had been received from families in lodgings. Approximately 42 houses were known to be overcrowded.

### 3. FITNESS OF HOUSES.

Notices for essential repairs are continually being served by the Health Department. Of the 1287 defects found during the year, 1177 were remedied. There is evident a decline in the standard of house maintenance, owing to the high cost of repair work, periodic shortage of certain materials, and shortage of building labour on repair work.





